Humanities Knowledge Organiser

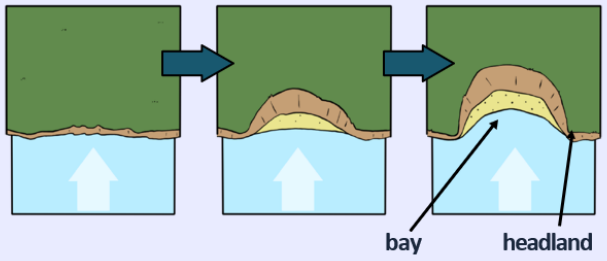
Year 6	Coastal Erosion	Autumn 2

Vocabulary

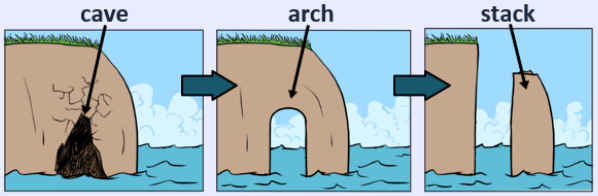
Erosion	Where part of the coastline gets worn down and moved by natural forces such as wind or water.
Deposition	Landforms can be created by sediment left behind by the waves.
Physical feature	Natural characteristics of the Earth's surfaces such as: volcanoes, caves and lakes.
Headland	A cliff that sticks out into the sea and is surrounded by water on three sides.
Glaciers	A big sheet of ice.
Tectonic plates	The Earth's outer layer is made up of large, moving pieces called plates.

- A **coast** is the place where the **land meets the sea or an ocean**.
- It's like the **edge** of the land where you can see the water.
- The UK has around 19,600 miles of coastline.
- The UK is made up of islands, which means it is surrounded by the sea.

Features formed by erosion

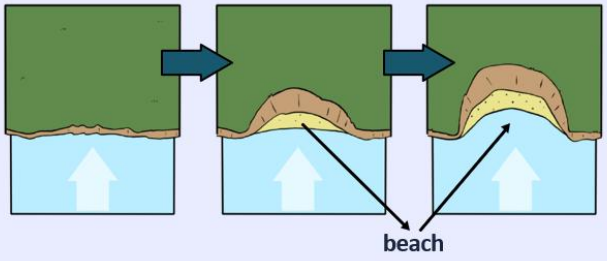


An area of the cliff face which is made from weaker rock is retreating because of erosion.
The sea travels further inland to form a **bay**. This leaves the areas of stronger rock jutting out into the sea forming **headlands**.



Erosion causes the cracks on the cliff face of the headland to become bigger.
Eventually, the cave will carve all the way through the headland and form an arch. The top of the arch collapses and leaves a stack.

Features formed by deposition



The sea carries **sediment**. Weaker waves deposit this sediment on the shore and over time the beach gets bigger. This is an example of a landform created by deposition.



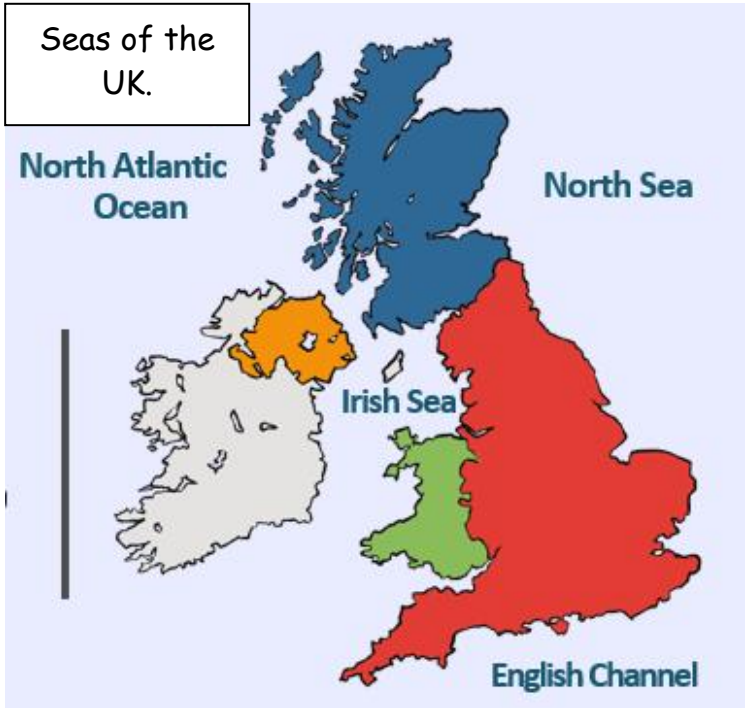
Sand dunes are created when the wind blows sand into piles, often helped by plants like marram grass, whose roots hold the sand together.



A **spit** is formed when waves move sediment along the shore and it piles up creating a long, thin strip of land that sticks out into the water.

Sticky Knowledge

Seas of the UK.



Physical coastal features

